

Congressman Childers Helps Spur Small Business Innovation, Create New Jobs in High Unemployment Areas

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Washington, DC - Today, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) helped create new jobs and boost the economy in areas that need it the most by sparking small business innovation in places suffering from high unemployment. Along with Congressmen Dennis Cardoza (D-CA) and Jerry McNerney (D-CA), Congressman Childers included language in an amendment to the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act of 2009 (H.R. 2965) that will prioritize innovation outreach, support, and funding for small businesses located in areas with especially high unemployment rates. The bill passed in the House today by a vote of 386-41.

"Small businesses are the engines that drive economic recovery and, as a small businessman, I know that they're key to bringing down unemployment rates in North Mississippi. While getting our country back on track will not happen overnight, it's essential that we provide small businesses with opportunities to increase competitiveness and create new jobs," said Congressman Childers. "Every year, small business innovation programs help 1,500 new firms get off the ground, and today's legislation will ensure that preference is given to businesses in the areas that need it the most."

H.R. 2965 modernizes the government's largest small business research and development programs, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, more than doubling the amount of the grants small businesses can apply for and helping them engage in cutting-edge research.

The Small Business Research and Innovation Act will broaden the pool of businesses that participate in the programs by reaching out to rural entrepreneurs, veterans, minorities and women. The bill will make it easier for small businesses to find financing, allowing them, not Washington bureaucrats, to decide how to raise capital. It also puts a greater emphasis on helping smaller firms bring their products to market.

Since 1992, the SBIR and STTR programs have awarded 65,000 grants to small companies that are leading research efforts to cure diseases, strengthen national defense and reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. Without action by Congress, these programs will expire later this month

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit <http://www.childers.house.gov/>

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